

## TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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## EDISON'S COMMODITY SCHEME IS FLAT

There is no reason to think that the plan of Thomas A. Edison for providing commodity currency to replace gold will be easily adapted in either how much money it may have for the simple reason that America is not troubled with any shortage of gold. Our troubles come mostly from the shortage of gold in other countries and we cannot meet that by changing our own money system. But it seems as if the plan of commodity currency which Edison suggests is a plan to put no sale if you have no piano and perhaps you cannot do so if you have one. If you have the ability you can make some other kind of money.

Edison's suggestion for commodity money derives most of its punch from recognizing that commodities are the real thing and that gold is only a substitute for them. He proposes that the man who produces a commodity should have something of the same ready facility for turning his products into currency as the gold miner has for his nuggets. He would have the government warehouse the product and issue immediately to the producer in unit currency an amount equal to one-half of its value estimated by taking the average of its price for the previous 25 years as a basis of computation.

Then the producer would get a warehouse certificate for the entire amount of his product that may be withdrawn at any time by the bearer upon repayment of the amount loaned upon it without interest. The producer could then either sell his certificate in the market or he could hold it himself until prices were favorable for the actual sale of the goods.

One might readily believe that such a form of commodity currency would be the remedy against the utter demoralization of paper money in Europe. There they are trying to do business with currency that has worse than nothing behind it. Edison's unit currency could not depreciate below the market value of the goods it represented, and that would be a vast improvement upon the present plight of the mark and the ruble. So long as the government acted in good faith there would be no danger involved in trading in warehouse receipts calling for actual deposits of staple commodities. But for America the scheme could hardly get the political support necessary to carry it into effect simply because the country does not need any sound money.

## COURT DECISION ON JAPANESE CITIZENSHIP

The United States supreme court has decided that Japanese are permanently ineligible to citizenship in this country. The decision interprets legislation adopted many years ago limiting citizenship to free white persons or persons of African descent. This law does not mention the Japanese specifically but the court has now held that it applies to them.

The Japanese have been the most sensitive of all Asiatics on the subject of race discrimination and even sought to have a declaration of race equality inserted into the treaty of Versailles. Most of the talk about the possibility of war with Japan hinged on this vexed question. But it is coming to be accepted that races that will not

amalgamate ought not to be brought into conflict with each other by attempting to live in large numbers in the same country. With this principle accepted the way is open to avoid any bad feeling growing out of the rivalry of race.

The question is not one involving the scale of relationship of either race to the other. The circumstances which gave rise to the legislation on exclusion were purely economic and pointed to economic dangers. The Japanese and the Chinese have many qualities which commend them to the white race and it is highly desirable that the most friendly relations should be conserved between them.

Our experience with the race problem in the southern states has shown that non-amalgamating races living together will all ways rub each other the wrong way and the only way to avoid it is to avoid the admixture. Between Asia and America there exists this racial barrier which is personified in Kipling's lines: "For East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet."

The Pacific is a wide and peaceful ocean and there is opportunity for the cultivation across it of extensive relationally profitable business relations. Let it be accepted as wise and right that each race pursue its own destiny in its own field with the utmost good feeling and mutual friendliness and respect.

## ROYALTY IS MUCH MINUS DIVINITY

The levity with which the remarriage of Count Hohenzollern has been greeted and the action of certain German groups in draping the tomb of the late kaiser in mourning on the wedding day shows to what extent has evaporated the superstition of the divine rights of kings. Were all legal obstacles removed it is very doubtful if Wilhelm could now be elected president of Germany by the vote of the people. They are through with him and he knows it.

It cannot be said, however, that the institution of popular government in Germany or anywhere else in Europe has been an unqualified success. This is because it takes a more general diffusion of education than obtains in most countries to qualify people for the duties of self government. The experiment has been most disastrous in Russia, and it is not likely to be any better in Turkey if the nationalists adhere to the program of abolishing the sultanate.

The adoption of a constitutional monarchy divested of any pretense of divine and perhaps of hereditary right will probably fill the gap until the people become more qualified to bear the responsibilities of the duty. Meanwhile even in America, by far the best fitted of all the nations for democracy, the people are beginning to study in a common-sense way the defects of their present system. When conscientiously done the task of deciding upon officials and policies is not a light one, and it is generally well done under our present methods. This is shown by the growth of political landslides back and forth from year to year, representing fickleness of judgment more than anything else.

The most annoying thing about France's ills is her continual description of her troubles.

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Some prophet is needed at this moment to convert the world to Christianity.

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